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Message Text

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11
ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

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NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE
PM/MC:BFEMINELLA (PHONE)
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DOD/ISA/NESA:RKUBAL (PHONE)
DOD/ISA:JNOYES (SUBS)
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R 190201Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 061297

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MASS, PK, US

SUBJECT: BRITISH SALE OF MK-44 TORPEDO TO PAKISTAN

REF: ODRP 120545 MARCH 75

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECONSIDERED MK-44 TORPEDO CASE UNDER CURRENT ARMS SUPPLY POLICY ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 24 AND DECIDED, WITH DOD CONCURRENCE, TO REMOVE USG OBJECTION TO BRITISH EXPORT THIS U.S.-LICENSED EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN.

2. FOLLOWING WERE CONSIDERATIONS IN DECISION:

A. THE MK-44 TORPEDO IS AN AIRBORNE ANTI-SUBMARINE WEAPON WHICH THE PAKISTAN NAVY APPARENTLY INTENDS TO DEPLOY ON
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ITS BRITISH SEA KING HELICOPTERS AND NATO MARITIME PATROL

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AIRCRAFT. GIVEN THE VERY LIMITED NATURE OF PRESENT AND PROJECTED PAKISTAN NAVAL CAPABILITIES, THE PAK NAVY'S ASW MISSION IN WARTIME WOULD PROBABLY BE ESSENTIALLY DEFENSIVE.

B. MK-44 TORPEDOS ARE ALREADY IN BOTH THE PAKISTANI AND INDIAN INVENTORIES. THEY WERE FURNISHED DIRECTLY TO PAKISTAN NAVY BY U.S. BEFORE 1965 FOR USE ON U.S.-SUPPLIED SHIPS. IN 1968-69 PERIOD, WE APPROVED SALE OF TORPEDOS

TO BOTH PAKISTAN AND INDIA FOR USE WITH BRITISH SEA KING HELICOPTERS, THOUGH ONLY SALE TO INDIA WAS CONSUMMATED BEFORE TOTAL EMBARGO WAS REIMPOSED IN 1971. DENIAL OF RENEWED REQUEST FROM PAKISTAN LAST YEAR WAS BASED ON RECENT CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT REGARDING THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS, BUT THIS RULING HAD PARTICULARLY DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT BECAUSE INDIAN SEA KING HELICOPTERS HAD ALREADY BEEN EQUIPPED WITH MK-44 TORPEDOS WITH OUR APPROVAL.

3. WITH ABOVE IN MIND, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS THAT SALE OF MK-44 TORPEDOS MEETS CRITERIA ESTABLISHED FOR APPROVAL OF REQUESTS UNDER PRESENT POLICY. WE ARE INFORMING BRITISH AND PAKISTANI EMBASSIES HERE THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR BRITISH SALE OF THIS EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN.

4. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT INTEND UNNECESSARILY TO PUBLICIZE THIS ACTION, BUT IF ASKED WHETHER USG HAS RECEIVED ANY REQUESTS FROM PAKISTAN UNDER NEW POLICY WE PREPARED TO PROVIDE SUBSTANTIALLY FOLLOWING RESPONSE. GOPHAS RENEWED AN EARLIER REQUEST FOR USG APPROVAL OF THE SALE BY GREAT BRITAIN OF MARK-44 TORPEDOS MANUFACTURED IN THE UK UNDER U.S. LICENSE. THIS EARLIER REQUEST HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, WHICH HAD SUPPORTED REQUEST, WAS SO INFORMED IN JULY 1974. WE HAVE RECONSIDERED THIS EARLIER DECISION AND ARE NOW PREPARED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO SUCH A SALE ON THE GROUNDS THAT USG WOULD BE WILLING TO SELL THIS EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY TO PAKISTAN ORINDIA. THIS DECISION FULLY SATISFIES CRITERIA ESTABLISHED UNDER POLICY ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 24. MARK-44
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TORPEDOS ARE PRESENTLY IN THE INVENTORIES OF BOTH THE PAKISTANI AND INDIAN NAVIES. UNDER OUR MAP PROGRAM WE PROVIDED SOME TORPEDOS TO PAKISTAN BEFORE 1965. IN 1968-69, WHICH WAS A PERIOD WHEN THE USG WAS MAINTAINING AN EMBARGO ON DIRECT TRANSFERS OF LETHAL WEAPONS, THE USG APPROVED A SIMILAR BRITISH SALE TO BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN. ONLY THE SALE TO INDIA WAS CONSUMMATED BEFORE OUR TOTAL EMBARGO WAS REIMPOSED IN 1971.

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5. FOR YOUR INFORMATION, WE ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY CONGRESS IN ADVANCE OF THE TRANSFER. INGERSOLL

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